

Message Text

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SUBJECT NEW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT

REF ROME 6592

1. RUMOR GOVERNMENT WILL HOLD FIRST CABINET MEETING JULY 11 TO NAME UNDERSECRETARIS. PARLIAMENTARY VOTES OF CONFIDENCE NOW EXPECTED JULY 16 OR 17.

2. TWENTY-EIGHT MAN RUMOR CABINET (SEE REFTTEL) IS LARGEST BY TWO OF ANY GOVERNMENT SINCE FOUNDATION OF REPUBLIC. HOWEVER, IT INCLUDES NO VICE-PRIME MINISTERS, REFLECTING INABILITY TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOCIALISTS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS OVER WHETHER BOTH DE MARTINO AND SARAGAT SHOULD HOLD THAT TITLE OR WHETHER PSI SHOULD ALONE ENJOY PREFERENTIAL STATUS IMPLICIT THEREIN. POSSIBLY BAD OMEN FOR GOVERNMENT COHESION IS REFUSAL OF EX-PSI SECRETARY MANCINI TO PARTICIPATE OR TO BE REPRESENTED BY OTHERS OF HIS FACTION. REPORTEDLY, THE TWO PSI LEADERS ARE AGAINST AT LOGGERHEADS, DESPITE EFFORTS BY DE MARTINO TO PLACATE MANCINI WITH REPORTED OFFER OF BUDGET POST LATTER GIVEN TO GIOLITTI. MANCINI'S BITTERNESS STEMS LARGELY FROM REFUSAL OF OTHER COALITION PARTNERS TO ACCEDE TO HIS NOMINATION TO THE KEY FINANCE MINISTRY AS WELL AS PSI MAJORITY'S FAILURE TO PUSH VARIOUS OTHER BARGAINING DEMANDS HE HAD PROPOSED PARTY ADOPT IN DEALING WITH DC. REPORTEDLY HE ALSO PREFERS NOT TO

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HIMSELF BE BURDENED WITH GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES WHILE RIVAL

DE MARTINO IS FREE TO DEVOTE MAJOR ATTENTION TO PARTY MANAGEMENT. SIMILARLY, RIGHT-WING AUTONOMIST FACTION LEADER CRAXI HAS OPTED NOT TO MOVE FROM PARTY TO GOVERNMENT.

3. ANDREOTTI AND FORLANI ARE OTHER NOTWEORTHY ABSENCES FROM CABINET. BOTH WERE SUBJECTED TO HEAVY PRESSURE BY FANFANI AND RUMOR TO ACCEPT CABINET POSITIONS. FORLANI, EVIDENTLY PREPARED TO ACCEPT A MINISTRY, WITHDREW AT THE LAST MINUTE. ANDREOTTI, WHO REPORTEDLY WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED FOREIGN MINISTRY, BALKED AT ANYTHING LESS. BOTH IDENTIFIED PERSONAL REASONS AS MOTIVES FOR STAYING OUT. WHETHER THIS IS FACT OR NOT, THEIR ABSENCE IS CONSIDERED BY MANY AS CLEAR ATTEMPT TO KEEP POLITICAL DISTANCE FROM RENEWED CENTER-LEFT. ANDREOTTI WING OF ANDREOTTI-COLOMBO FACTION, HOWEVER, IS REPRESENTED BY LONG TIME ANDREOTTI LIEUTENANT SIGNORELLO AS TOURISM MINISTER. WHILE ALL SIX DC FACTIONS ARE REPRESENTED IN NEW CABINET, FAR-LEFT FORZE NUOVE GROUP IS DISGRUNTLED AT RECEIVING ONLY TWO MINISTRIES WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (SOUTHERN DEVELOPMENT, REGIONS) WHEN IT HAD HOPED TO PLACE FACTION-LEADER DONAT CATTIN IN STATE-INDUSTRY BILLET.

4. IN SHORT RUN OF NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS RUMOR SHOULD HAVE FAIRLY SMOOTH SAILING ENJOYING IMPETUS OF RENEWED CENTER-LEFT COLLABORATION WHILE BENEFITING FROM FACT LITTLE WILL BE EXPECTED OF COALITION IN LEGISLATION AREA UNTIL WELL INTO FALL. ON ECONOMIC FRONT, GIOLITTI, LA MALFA AND COLOMBO, ALL THREE HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND WELL REGARDED, CAN EXPECT CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR STEPS THEY JOINTLY AGREE UPON, IN EFFECT TO HALT INFLATION AND REVIVE ECONOMY. PRESENCE OF LEFT-LEANING SOCIALIST BERTOLDI AT LABOR MINISTRY PLACES ONUS UPON PSI TO DELIVER "LABOR TRUCE" (WHICH THEY HAVE LONG INSISTED ONLY RENEWED CENTER-LEFT COULD PERMIT) AND WITH MAJOR LABOR CONTRACTS NOW BEHIND THEM, THEY STAND GOOD CHANCE OF SHORT TERM SUCCESS.

5. LONG TERM GOVERNMENT PROSPECTS, HOWEVER, ARE LESS ASSURING. NEW GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FORMED RELATIVELY QUICKLY BY ITALIAN STANDARDS LARGELY BY PAPERING-OVER PRINCIPAL DIVISIVE ISSUES OR BY SETTING THEM ASIDE. IN THIS REGARD, ANDREOTTI RECENTLY TOLD EMBASSY THAT CARLY RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS WOULD SIGNAL INADEQUATE AGREEMENT UPON TROUBLESOME ITEMS ON GOVERNMENT AGENDA. ACCORD ON GOVERNMENT'S "SELF-CONFIDENTIAL

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SUFFICIENCY" IN PARLIAMENT (I.E. ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM THE COMMUNISTS) MAY NOT HOLD UP IN PRACTICE WHEN MAJORITY HAS TO FACE UP TO HARD CHOICES ON VARIOUS VOLATILE ISSUES IN AREA OF REFORMS SUCH AS HOUSING, HEALTH, RADIO-TV AS WELL AS ON CONTENTIOUS DIVORCE REFERENDUM NOW SCHEDULED FOR SPRING. ON NONE OF THESE ISSUES DOES FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT SIGNIFY SPECIFIC MEETING OF THE MINDS ON SUBSTANCE OR APPROACH. VOLPE

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